

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

JULIAN MICHAEL BREZDEN

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS


IN

PAINTING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL 1999



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

submitted by JULIAN MICHAEL BREZDEN in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Art.

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections, University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
"He entertains them successfully For a while"	1999	Mixed Media	4'6" x 5'

Insurance Value: \$1,000.00

The University of Alberta

RELEASE FORM

NAME OF AUTHOR JULIAN MICHAEL BREZDEN TITLE OF
THESIS FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION DEGREE FOR
WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED MASTER OF FINE ARTS
YEAR THIS DEGREE WAS GRANTED 1999

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Painting is the celebration of life, it may be good or bad, joyful or painful, short or long, but nevertheless that is life. The only thing we know for a fact is that there is a beginning, middle and an end.

These paintings illustrate the struggles of a character who is immersed in Dementia-praecox or "little man" humour. Little man humour has been around since the start of the twentieth century, or modern age and has found its home in many artists. My main source of interest lies in the little man characters of the silent cinemas, such as: Buster Keaton, Fatty Arbuckle, and most influential, Charles Chaplin.

The characteristics of little man humour springs from a general feeling of the decay of a unitary mythology, the loss of self-confidence, and the isolation of the ordinary individual in modern times.

The incredible speed in which modern life moves makes the little man character's world bewildering and unreliable rather than stable; rapid changes constantly threaten their values and the environment, which often seems overwhelming. As a result, their tone is often anxious, or neurotic; thus they retreat into "inner space" or fantasy worlds of impossible dreams and self-denigrating nightmares.

I invite the viewer to participate in the character's efforts to find some meaning in our marvellous yet absurd world.

Acknowledgements

My parents and family for their understanding and support.

As well I would like to thank Maria Segovia, Ruby Mah and Brent Wasyk for helping me in framing my pictures. Blair Brennan and the gallery staff. My committee for their interest in my work and especially Phil Darrah for his wisdom, knowledge and sense of humour.

I would like to express my appreciation to all individuals who supported and guided me throughout my graduate program.

PUNCTURED ROMANCE

This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Painting



Julian Brezden

Public Viewing: November 23 - December 5, 1999
Opening Reception: Thursday, November 25, 1999
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10-5

Sunday 2-5

Closed Saturday, Monday
and Statutory Holidays

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Department of Art and Design

Fine Arts
Building
tab
gallery

University of Alberta

Julian Brezden - Slide list

1. Attempt to move , 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
4'7 x 5'6
2. He entertains them for awhile, 1999
mixed media
4'6 x 5
3. Absent minded gestures, 1999
mixed media on canvas
1'6 x 1'4
4. More absent minded gestures, 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'9 x 2'3
5. They charge blindly, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
2'11 x 2'11
6. Look! Listen! Vibrate!, 1999
mixed media on canvas
3 x 3
7. A little help from a friend, 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'3 x 2'3
8. 1st Class, 1999
mixed media on canvas
3 x 3'6
9. Caught In the... , 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'4 x 2'7

10. Beautiful view, 1999
mixed media on board
1'3 x 1'3
11. Halling, 1999
mixed media on board
11 x 8
12. Precarious predicament, 1999
mixed media on board
11 x 8
13. Waiting for the day, 1999
mixed media on board
11 x 8
14. Set out in pursuit, 1999
mixed media on board
11 x 8
15. Possibly the wrong place, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
3'4 x 3'7
16. Balance is already precarious, 1999
mixed media on canvas
5'7 x 3'11
17. Fidgety feet, 1999
mixed media on board
2 x 1'6
18. Fleeing from the scene, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
4 x 4
19. Still more absent minded gestures, 1999
mixed media on canvas
1'6 x 1'6

20. Honourable yet Impossible, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
3'9 x 5'2
21. Saved by the... , 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'8 x 2
22. Look! , 1999
mixed media on board
2'1 x 2
23. In a flash or For one brief moment, 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'2 x 2'11
24. Look! Listen! , 1999
mixed media on canvas
1'9 x 1'9
25. Plagued by doubts, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
4 x 4
26. Walk don't run, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
4'1 x 5'7
27. Likely to emerge victorious, 1999
mixed media on canvas
5'7 x 4'8
28. Undiscouraged another attempt is made, 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
3'4 x 3'7

29. A dignified attempt. 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'10 x 3
30. Time will only tell. 1999
mixed media on canvas
3'1 x 3'1
31. Another fine mess. 1999
mixed media on canvas
2'11 x 3'2
32. Enter stage right. 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
5'2 x 3'4
33. Trying times. 1999
mixed media on canvas
5 x 5
34. Sixteen panels of love. 1999
oil and beeswax on canvas
16 paintings of 18 x 16

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